
THE HE-MAN WOMAN HATER CLUB

SUMMARY: From a young age, we recognise the differences that exist between male and female. These differences are obvious but still sometimes confusing, hence the creation of boy germs and girl germs.

These obvious differences are today seen as anything but. Our world has shifted towards ignoring these differences or even going as far as denying them. Peter though, in writing to his first century audience, confronts these differences in his address to both husbands and wives individually.

Beginning with wives, he challenges them to submit, using the very same word he used between slaves and masters, but in a very different context, remembering this is an act of free choice. This challenge is followed with a purpose, to present the message of Jesus to even unbelieving husbands.

On top of the idea of submission, Peter presents the contrast between inner beauty and outer beauty, pointing to the one God looks for in his people.

Tying this all together is the example of Sarah, an outwardly beautiful woman who is described here in terms of inward beauty.

Secondly, husbands are confronted, with their challenge simple. Live with an understanding of your wives, respecting them and protecting them. Living and leading a house like this is how God calls men to live, doing so reflects their faith.

In all of this we must see that Jesus is the central example, in the same way both husbands and wives are to live and to serve.

1. Why is gender such a sensitive topic in our culture?
 2. How would you define the word submit? (v.1)
 3. How have both men and women misused this understanding of gender and marriage roles?
 4. Why is the way we live so important to our witness? How is it a powerful example to those close to us?
 5. Is it wrong to value outer beauty? Why is inner beauty more important? (v.3-4)
 6. How is Sarah a helpful example of the responsibility and lifestyle of wives and women?
 7. How is the husbands “living according to knowledge” (*direct translation of v.7*) a challenge to men?
 8. Why is it socially unacceptable to call a woman ‘the weaker partner (v.7b)? Is this right or wrong?
 9. What does acknowledging wives as the weaker partner mean for men both then but even more so today?
 10. In what ways are men and women equal but different? (v7b)
 11. How might failing to live out our calling and responsibilities hinder our prayer? (v.7c)
 12. Why are the responsibilities and roles given to husbands and wives different?
-



I PETER 3:1-7

